

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-28, 30, and 33-40 will remain pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended for clarity. Claims 23, 24, 30, and 33 have been amended to correct typographical oversights. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

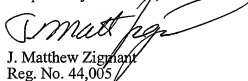
Claims 1-22 and 23-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 1, 23, and 24 have been appropriately amended. Claim 30 has been objected to. Claims 30 and 33 have been appropriately amended.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal notice of allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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